

**Tribal Water Quality Cooperative Agreements  
Clean Water Section 104(b)(3)  
US EPA Region IX  
Fiscal Year 2005 Request for Proposals**

**Overview**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region IX is soliciting proposals for the Tribal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program. The purpose of these funds is to conduct and promote the coordination and acceleration of investigations, training, demonstrations, surveys and studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction and elimination of pollution. Through this grant program EPA will provide funding for projects which are unique and innovative that address the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) Program. Funds awarded through this program may not be used to support continuing program operations such as ongoing administrative, program, research or ineligible costs, as outlined in 40 CFR Part 30 and 31. Funds awarded under this program are authorized through Clean Water Act Section 104(b)(3). This is an initial solicitation.

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 66.463.**

**Important Dates:**

**March 11, 2005: Initial Proposals must be received.**  
**April 5, 2005: Proposals identified for funding will be requested to submit a formal application package.**  
**April 29, 2005: Final grant application and workplan must be submitted to EPA.**  
**September 30, 2005: Final awards granted**

Please note that EPA may modify the schedule at anytime.

**Context of Full Text Announcement:**

- I. Funding Opportunity Description
- II. Award Information
- III. Eligibility Information
- IV. Application and Submission Information
- V. Application Review Information
- VI. Award Administration Information
- VII. Agency Contact(s)
- VIII. Other Information

## **I. Funding Opportunity Description**

The purpose of this program is to provide funding to federally-recognized Indian tribes, tribal consortia, and non-profit organizations (which support tribal programs) for projects that are unique and innovative and that address the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) Program. Examples of eligible activities include the development and implementation of control strategies for combined sewage overflow and storm water discharge problems, sludge programs, and community-based water pollution prevention activities. In addition, NPDES Water Quality Cooperative Agreements can be used to implement priority tribal environmental protection activities and conduct innovative watershed protection planning.

This program falls under Goal 2 (Clean and Safe Water), Objective 2 (Protect Water Quality), Subobjective 1 (Improve Water Quality on a Watershed Basis), of the strategy that EPA is using to meet the requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA).

### **US EPA Region IX Priority Objectives**

The following priority project categories will receive the highest overall ranking, and the key objective of the Tribal NPDES Water Quality Cooperative Agreement Program is to demonstrate an integrated watershed management approach:

- Watershed Planning and Development of Comprehensive Ecosystem Restoration Programs (Education and Public Outreach)
- NPDES Program Strategies to Implement Watershed-Based Efforts
- Tribal Water Pollution Prevention Development (storm water, wastewater, and sewage sludge program activities)
- Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL)/Water Quality Assessments and Monitoring Programs

## **II. Award Information**

EPA, Region IX Water Division intends to award an estimated \$275,000 to eligible applicants through assistance agreements ranging from \$50,000 to \$90,000 for Water Quality Cooperative Agreements. From the Initial Proposals received, EPA estimates that 2 - 4 projects will be selected to submit full applications. Both initial and renewal proposals will be accepted for consideration. Proposals must address the priorities outlined in this Request For Proposals (RFP) in order to be considered.

## **III. Eligibility Information**

EPA, Region IX is soliciting proposals from federally-recognized Indian Tribes, tribal consortia, and non-profit organizations (which support tribal programs) interested in applying for Federal assistance for Water Quality Cooperative Agreements under the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 104(b)(3).

Assistance will be targeted to applicants who have successfully demonstrated the ability to carry out Federal grant programs. Project proposals should describe specific environmental

improvements to be achieved and should explain how specific activities will build Tribal capacity. No matching funds are required. However, applicants may provide a non-federal cash or in-kind match to indicate the organizations commitment to completing the project. Please note funds awarded through this program may not be used to support continuing program operations such as, ongoing administrative costs, research or other ineligible costs as outlined in 40 CFR Parts 30 and 31.

#### **IV: Application and Submission Information**

Initial proposals should be limited to 3 pages. Full application packages should not be submitted at this time. **Applicants should address the relevance of their project to the selection criteria outlined in Section V.** It is recommended that confidential information not be included in the proposals. Proposals should conform to the following outline:

1. Name of Project
2. Point of contact (Individual and Organization Name, Address, Phone Number, Fax Number, E-mail Address)
3. Is this a continuation of a previously funded project? **If yes, please provide the number and status of the current grant or cooperative agreement.**
4. Estimated Proposed Budget:
  - Budget should identify all federal and other sources of funding for the project including the applicant cost-share.
  - Budgets should clearly identify categories for funding distribution (supplies, contractual, staff, etc.).
5. Project description:
  - Include brief description of the project area as well as how project relates to regional priorities (Section I) for water quality improvement.
  - Describe components of project
  - Describe any partnerships and community support
  - Include timeline, key project milestones, explanation of environmental goals, objectives and final product(s).
6. Outcome/Result Tracking and Reporting:
  - Develop a plan for tracking, measuring, and reporting progress toward achieving expected outputs/outcomes (deliverables/measurable changes in the environment). Proposal should address the applicant's past performance in documenting the achievement of expected outcomes/outputs including, if applicable, satisfactory explanations of why outcomes/outputs were not achieved.
  - Describe past performances in filing timely progress reports and final reports that document the achievement of expected outcomes/outputs or a satisfactory explanation of why the outcomes/outputs were not achieved.

Please e-mail your proposals to [vanegas.loretta@epa.gov](mailto:vanegas.loretta@epa.gov) or send **three** copies of the Project Proposals to:

**Loretta Vanegas  
Tribal Program Coordinator  
U.S. EPA Region IX (WTR-10)  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105**

For additional information, please contact Loretta Vanegas at (415) 972-3433 or Tiffany Eastman at 1-800-735-2922, then 972-3404 for an operator to assist you with your call.

**Project proposals must be RECEIVED by March 11, 2005. Proposals received after March 11, 2005 will be considered solely at the discretion of EPA.**

#### **V. Application Review Information**

EPA will award Water Quality Cooperative Agreements on a competitive process. Proposals will be evaluated by EPA staff on a scale of **one to five with one being low and five being high. The project selection criteria below will have essentially equal weight.**

- The relationship of the proposed project to one of the Regional priority objectives identified in Section I.
- Experience with EPA-funded grant programs, and where applicable, past performance with EPA grants.
- Innovative Watershed Approaches
- How well the applicant has developed a plan to define and measure the expected environmental outcomes that will occur as a result of EPA funding this proposal.
- Leverage of other resources (e.g. cost share, participation by other organizations) and cost effectiveness of the proposal
- Community Involvement/Community Support

Final selection will be made by the Manager of the Clean Water Act Tribal Office. Selected Tribes will be notified and requested to submit a full application. It is expected that unsuccessful applicants will be notified by e-mail.

#### **VI. Award Administration Information**

Proposals that are selected for continuance in the process will be sent an application kit for funding. These applicants will be invited to submit a detailed workplan and completed application for funding. Receipt of an application kit is not a guarantee of funding. No Funding will occur if deadlines are missed or prior to the EPA Project Officer approving the workplan. Regulations governing the award and administration of Water Quality Cooperative Agreements: Tribal government entities will follow 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 31 and 40 CFR Part 35, Subpart B.

**Reporting:** Quarterly project status reports and final Financial Status Report will be required. Quarterly reports should describe project activities and provide EPA with information about project development. The Financial Status Report must accurately account for all federal funds expended and identify appropriate use of federal funds.

**Disputes:** Assistance agreement competition-related disputes will be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures published in 70 FR (Federal Register) 3629, 3630 (January 26, 2005) which can be found at

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-1371.htm>

Copies of these procedures may also be requested by contacting the Agency Contact below.

**Confidentiality: Applicants must clearly mark information they consider confidential and EPA will make confidentiality decisions in accordance with Agency Regulations at 40 CFR, Part 2, Sub-part B.**

**EPA reserves the right to reject all proposals and to not make any awards.**

**VII. Agency Contact(s)** For additional information, please contact

Loretta Vanegas  
Tribal Program Coordinator  
EPA Region 9  
Water Division  
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Fax: (415) 947-3537  
[Email: vanegas.loretta@epa.gov](mailto:vanegas.loretta@epa.gov)